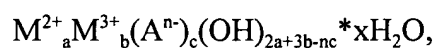


### Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-49 (Cancelled)

Claim 50 (Currently amended) A process for preparing a catalyst comprising at least one catalytic metal loaded on a hydrotalcite-based carrier material which has the following formula in its uncalcined form



wherein  $M^{2+}$  is at least one divalent metal; and  $M^{3+}$  is at least one trivalent metal;

A is an n-valent anion

n is 1 or 2,

c is 1 or 2,

and a and b are positive numbers,  $a > b$ ; which process comprises:

- a) adding at least one catalytic metal salt or complex to the carrier material, of which the carrier material is ~~(at least partly) in, or~~ is in, or at least partly transformed to, the hydrotalcite phase during the metal addition step;
- b) followed by washing, and
- c) calcination.

Claim 51 (Currently amended) The process of claim 50, wherein the catalytic metal is at least one metal selected from Group VIII of the periodic table of elements.